

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 9-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21 and 23 have been amended, and claims 21-24 are pending.

Double Patenting

Without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer to avoid the refutation of pending claims 21-24 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,615,327. The Terminal Disclaimer is submitted with the appropriate fee. Although Applicants stated that the Terminal Disclaimer was filed with the Amendment filed December 22, 2004, it was inadvertently omitted from the papers that were filed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acceptance of the Terminal Disclaimer submitted herewith.

Examiner's Request and Duty of Disclosure

To the best of their knowledge, Applicants have complied with the duty of disclosure and accordingly do not submit any further references.

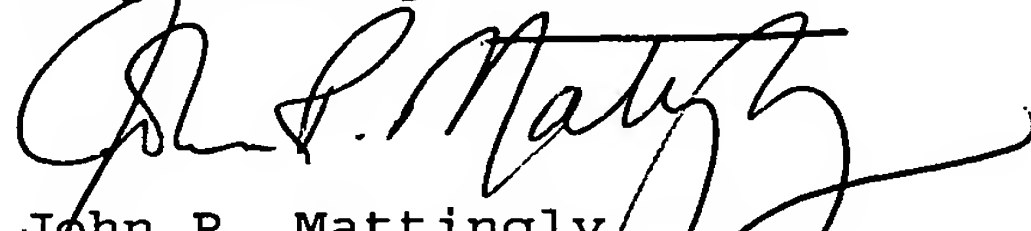
35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 9-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kitamura et al. U.S. Patent 6,499,056 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims without prejudice or disclaimer.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 22, 2005